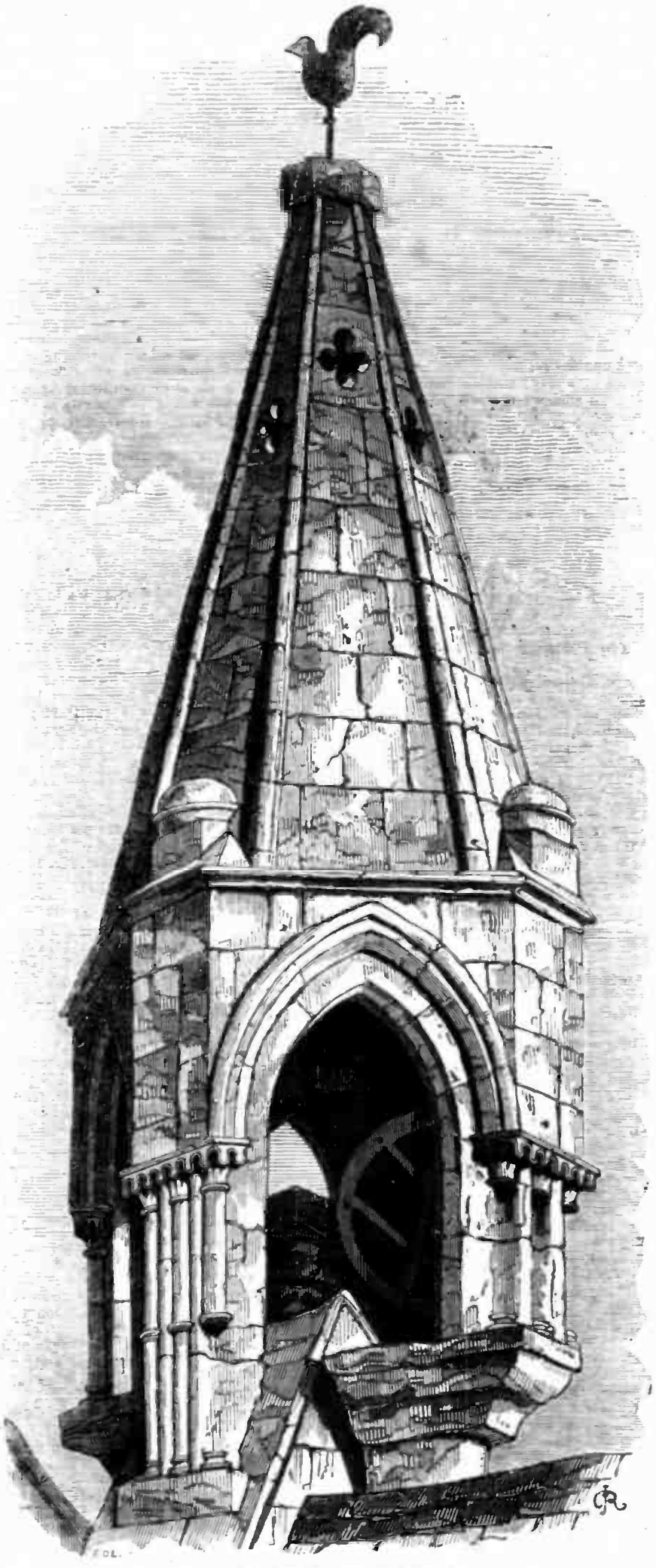
BELL-TURRET OF LEIGH DELAMERE CHURCH, WILTS.



PERSPECTIVE VIEW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—The beautiful turret which I herewith transmit to you is from the Church of Leigh Delamere, near Chippenham, in Wilts. It is placed over the chancel arch, and its projecting angles are supported by transverse stones corbelled over.

There are several churches in Wiltshire and the neighbouring county of Gloucestershire with these turrets; Mr. Thomas Larkins Walker, architect, gave the measured details of two of them, viz. of Biddestone and Great Chatfield (both in Wilts), in his valuable continuation of Pugin's works, and views of the churches, with notices of them by the Rev. J. L. Petit, will be found in the first number of the *Archæological Journal*. I regret I could not take measurements of this turret when on the spot, but independently of my want of time, the church is in such a condition, that the placing ladders against it would have been attended with injury to the building, and almost certain danger to myself. I think the sketch is, however, sufficiently large and distinct to explain to the professional man the design as well as the construction of the turret. It has generally been described as having five columns at each angle; you will perceive that there are really only three; these are placed, perfectly formed, into circular recesses; the wall between each column being rounded off, to exactly the same diameter as the column, gives this effect of five; the string-moulding, the capital and the base of each column, are bond stones. Above the columns, which are united at each angle of the building by a continuous abacus, finished downwardly by a nebulous ornament, rise lofty arches bearing labels; almost immediately above the points of the arches is placed a string-course, which surrounds the whole turret, which at that part is of a square plan, with its corners cut off: from thence ascends the crowning spire, the plan of which approaches more nearly to the form of a regular octagon, and which has corbelled angles, and the whole is finished by a rude cap-stone surmounted by a metal cock of rude workmanship. Near the summit of the spire each of its thin stone side-panels is perforated with a plain quatrefoil, the four on the canted sides being lower than the four others. The ledges which occur from the transition of the upright work to the pyramidal spire-work, are occupied by four peculiar pieces of stone, finished with globose heads.

The peculiar manner in which this little work is perched upon the gabel, with the alternating corbels, and the columns, alternately long and short, is very singular. Within the turret, which is open, may be seen the wheel of the bell, and which, though to some eyes bearing a homely appearance, adds to the picturesqueness of the representation. The turret at Leigh Delamere is the best of the yet discovered examples in Wilts, and I am sure the merit of it as an architectural composition will be fully appreciated by your readers.

One of the examples published by Mr. Walker lately fell down through neglect of repair; and persuasion on the part of the neighbouring gentry not having been effectual in causing its re-erection, it is now preserved in the beautiful terrace garden at Castle Coome. It would be a great pity if the one at Leigh Delamere is suffered to become so dilapidated as to meet a similar fate.—I am, Sir, yours,

C. J. RICHARDSON.

22, Brompton-crescent.

ON THE ARRANGEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSE DRAINS.

BY MR. JOHN PHILLIPS.

(*Continued from p. 594.*)

THE trap (Fig. 5, inserted in the last Number) can easily be cleansed at any time by taking up the grating and pouring three or four pails of water forcibly into it; the momentum of the water upon the curved bottom will stir up the sediment, which will be forced into the overflow drain. The common iron bell stench-traps are generally inoperative in consequence of often becoming choked where the bell dips. People submit to the

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